The AGRICULTURAL WORKER

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ONE INDUSTRY — ONE UNION

ISSUED BY THE
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INDUSTRIAL UNION

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AGRICULTURAL WORKERS! FIGHT FOR YOUR RIGHTS!

(An Editorial By Caroline Decker)

Agricultural workers, comrades, THE BOSS CLASS OF CALIFORNIA HAS ISSUED THE CHALLENGE TO US! With the passing of the anti-picketing ordinances in every important county in the state - THE NEW DEAL FOR THE AGRICULTURAL WORKERS STANDS EXPOSED - STARVATION AND LIKE IT!

Hot from the mouth of Roosevelt last week came the words - -"The law itself has provided for the free choice of their own representatives by the workers". Those two words "free choice" mean just what they say. It is obvious that the government itself not only has the right, but also the duty to see, first, that workers may make a choice, and secondly, that in the making of it they shall be free. Are those lies, Mr. Roosevelt? The State of Calif. has called your bluff. The State of Calif. has denied the workers free choice of their representatives. Supervisor A. B. Jacobsen of Monterey County writes to the editor of the 'Monterey Herald' and says. "when such organizations as our American Legion, Farm Bureau, Canners, State Chamber of Commerce and others whose patriotism cannot be questioned, ask for the ordinance, they must believe it of some value.

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DIST. COMMMITTEE CALLS 2nd ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE CANNERY and AGRICULTURAL WORKERS INDUSTRIAL UNION.

At its last meeting, March 4th, the Dist. Committee of the C&AWIU offically issued the Call for the 2nd Annual Convention of the Union. The Convention will be in session for two days, opening at 9 A.M. Sunday April 29th, terminating April 30th, with an elected delegation requesting an interview with the State officials at the Capitol building.

The 2nd Annual Convention of the C. & A.W.I.U. comes at a period when the agricultural workers in the fields, sheds and canneries are in need of organization more than ever before. The Convention comes

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DISARM BIG GROWERS OR ALLOW WORKERS TO ARM IN SELF-DEFENSE!

Brentwood, March 8th: In announcing the new anti-picketing ordinance that he is drawing up for this county, District Attorney James F. Hoey also announces his plan to "DEPUTIZE ALL EASTERN COUNTY FIELD WORKERS WHO ARE CITIZENS".

District Attorney Harry Noland of Monterey County says the ordinance is to "protect loyal workers who want to work".

Agricultural workers, this line up must be clear to us. "Loyal workers" in the opinion of the bosses, are workers who WILL SCAB! And in order to protect the scabs, under the guise of arming "citizens" the growers and canners are hiring GUN THUGS TO SHOOT DOWN WORKERS WHEN THEY STRIKE FOR BREAD! American workers who are citizens know that as long as the Mexican, Filipino, Japanese and other workers are exploited and cheated of their wages the AMERICAN WORKERS WILL ALSO BE CHEATED OF THEIR WAGES!

Fellow Workers, the bosses are now trying to work up race hatred, race riots among the different nationalities of workers. They know that as long as they can keep us fighting among ourselves, their profits will be safe. NO RED-BLOODED AMERICAN WORKING MAN WILL PICK UP GUNS AGAINST THE MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN OF HIS CLASS -- NO MATTER WHAT COLOR!

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EDITORIAL

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Of course such ordinances are valuable, VALUABLE TO THE RICH GROWERS and CANNERS BECAUSE 40,000 workers last year, under the leadership of the CANNERY & AGRICULTURAL WORKERS INDUSTRIAL UNION won millions of dollars in wage increases as a result of their militant strikes- because the cotton strike alone netted the workers a half-million-dollar wage increase! So to support such ordinances is to be patriotic-to protet the profits of the rich is to be patriotic! To tear-gas, club, beat and intimidate workers like the American Legion does! - To throw workers into jail and to prosecute them for Criminal Syndicalism when they fight for bread - is to be patriotic like the Dist. Attorneys, or like poor cotton growers who made a profit of over $5,000,000 from their 1933 crop.

NOW IS THE TIME FOR UNITED ACTION

Fellow Workers: - A.F. of L. Leaders say they do not want to organize the agricultural workers, (altho they send organizers around to try to disrupt C&AWIU Locals) and when they have organized, the workers have been sold-out. The Mexican Unions, controlled by the Mexican Consulate (which is patriotic like the American Legion,) or Filipino Unions controlled by the Filipino contractors, have sold the workers out time after time. The bosses know that the agricultural workers have only one real representative - THE RANK-AND-FILE CONTROLLED, FIGHTING "CANNERY & AGRICULTURAL WORKERS "INDUSTRIAL UNION - that is why they try to work up sentiment against us by labeling us "agitators"- that is why the rich growers and canners are pushing into the field all the fake Unions they can get ahold of - they will use all methods to keep us from organizing into the Union that means business.

These ordinances will affect rank and file workers in any organization if they organize and strike! The growers in San Mateo County have publicly stated that they will use all " legal methods " to break strikes; arrests, injunctions, etc. - if these do not work they say they will use the methods of the Pixley cotton growers (who murdered two workers). THIS IS A CHALLENGE TO OUR RIGHT TO LIVE! THIS IS A CHALLENGE TO OUR RIGHT TO PROVIDE ADEQUATELY FOR OUR WIVES AND CHILDREN ! THIS IS A CHALLENGE WHICH WE MUST MEET WITH DETERMINED ACTION! The growers are protected by their "laws", they have threatened to beat, jail and murder to save their profits ! OUR ONLY WEAPON IS MASS ORGANIZATION ! WE ARE MILLION-FOLD STRONGER THAN THE MURDEROUS BOSS CLASS! OUR ANSWER TO THEIR SAVAGE ATTACKS TO STARVE US MUST BE ORGANIZATION INTO THE ONLY AGRICULTURAL UNION THAT WILL DEFEND OUR RIGHTS ! OUR SLOGAN MUST BE IN EVERY FIELD, SHED AND CANNERY - BUILD A POWERFUL "CANNERY & AGRICULTURAL WORKERS INDUSTRAL UNION"!

GREETINGS FROM INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF AGRICULTURAL & FORESTRY WORKERS.

The Dist. Comm. of the C.& A.W. I.U. has received a letter from the Int'l Committee of Agricultural & Forestry Workers, asking us to set-up contact with them, so we could utilize each other's experiences which would be very valuable to both. The Committee asked us to inform them of the living conditions of the agricultural workers in the U.S.A. and their struggles, how our Union works, what successes and achievements it has won, its defects and shortcomings.

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CONVENTION CALL.

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at a time when the rich growers, canners and authorities are allied in their attempts to force the agricultural workers into a condition of slavery and slow starvation. Their methods are first to prevent the workers from striking for higher wages by intimidation, arrests, anti-picketing laws, force and violance. At the same time, in order to save their faces, they are pretending an interest in the workers and are attempting to establish in the agricultural industry fake Unions, controlled by the growers, canners and authorities.

The District Committee calls upon all C&AWIU members to put every ounce of energy to make successful each Section Convention, from which delegates are to be elected to the District Convention. All C. & A.W.I.U. Locals are to elect one delegate to every 10 paid-up members. ALL OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, FRATERNAL, A.F. of L., MEXICAN and FILIPINO UNIONS ARE INVITED TO SEND ONE DELEGATE to every 10 members.
ALL WORKERS IN SHEDS, CANNERIES AND RANCHES, ARE URGED TO CALL MEETINGS ON THE JOB, OR AT WORKERS' HOMES AND ELECT A DELEGATE TO REPRESENT THEIR GROUP!

(Signed) Dist. Comm. C&AWIU.

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OREGON C&AWIU HOLDS STATE CONVENTION MARCH 24 - 25.

On March 2nd and 3rd the United Farmers League of Oregon held their State Convention at Salem, Oregon and had 95 elected delegates present. This Convention displayed great unity of purpose and adopted some very militant resolutions, their future looking most promising.

On closing the Convention they held conference with the cannery and agricultural workers present and elected a temporary Organization Committee, State Organizer and Secretary. The date for the State-wide Convention to establish the C&AWIU on a firm basis in Oregon was set for March 24-25 at Salem. They expect to elect delegates to attend the Second Annual Convention of the Western District of the C&AWIU at Sacramento, on April 29th and 30th.

SMASH ALL ANTI-PICKET, ANTI-LABOR LAWS!

MINUTES of District Committee Meeting

Present 14 regularly elected District Committee members and 14 invited delegates representing the sections of : Los Angeles, San Jose, Monterey, Tulare, Oakland, Sacramento, and Bakersfield. Regularly elected delegates absent from, Bakersfield, San Bernardino, Imperial Valley, Fresno, Merced, and Arizona.

Financial Report

INCOME.

Balance from Jan.	$ 6.83
Contributions	37.50
Cash orders, dues and books	34.05
Collections by Decker at Mass-Meetings	62.00
Miscellaneous	.50
Total	$134.05
Grand Total	140.88

EXPENSE.

Repairs on 2 Union cars, gas and oil, tolls ferries	$19.28
Relief (cash) Imp. Valley	55.00
Telegrams	4.24
A/c printer's bill	15.00
Postage	1.75
Bulletin supplies	7. 36
Office supplies, papers, etc-	3.85
Wages	29.50
Miscellaneous	1.45
Total	$137.43
Cash Balance	3.25

Note: Due to moving of District Office receipts were misplaced, and money thus not unaccounted for has been added to the item of wages.

THE FOLLOWING MOTIONS WERE PASSED.

1- That Financial Statement be accepted as read.

2- That each District Committee meeting shall elect an auditing committee of 5 which will check the books before the next DC meeting.

3- That members shall not be charged additional for TUUL per capita Tax.

4- That the District shall pay per capita tax to TUUL.

5- That Comrade Mincy shall be responsible editor for "The Agricultural Worker".

6- That each Section Organizer shall be responsible for sending in for each bulletin a complete report on the Locals of his section, and a political article analyzing the conditions of the workers, and the condition of the Union organization, also what the Union is doing to organize the workers for struggle.

7- That District Committee members, thru their Section Committees, shall be responsible to seethat every local has a group of reporters. Duties of reporters shall be: (1) to be present at all Local meetings in order to be able to send reports in on local activity and news. (2) To read local newspapers and watch for articles pertaining to prices farmers are getting for crops, to preparations bosses are making to enforce starvation wages by ordinances, vigilante committees, fake unions, etc. (3) Must get reports from field organizers, or to get field organizers to write up reports on their experiences, how they organize, what the worker say, etc. (4) Get other Union members to write and also non-Union workers. (5) To push the sale of the bulletin among ranch-shed, and cannery workers. etc.

8- That each Section Committee shall elect a Section Bulletin Agent who will be responsible to get names and addresses of Local Bulletin Agents, get the orders for bulletins from each local, and send these into the District. The District shall then send bulletin bundles to each local.

9- That each Section and District Bure take up the Question of establishing permanent Relief Committees to work with the Workers International Relief and Unemployed Councils.

10- That Locals and Sections hold classes on defense work and that we apply to the ILD for educational material.

11- That each Local shall have regularly established defense squads.

12- That the District issue leaflets in English and Spanish exposing developments.

13- That the Dist. Com. of the Union issue the call to all Union Locals and workers to DEMAND DISARMING OF GROWERS AND VIGILANTE COMMITTEES, OR THE ARMING OF THE WORKERS IN SELF-DEFENSE.

Youth Notes

The successful struggle against fascism and the impending war danger demands that the Union turn its face toward the winning the working class youth on the basis of the economic, political, and social needs by bringing forward the youth into mass struggles.

The Union must assist by informing the Youth Section in the Locals, aiding them to bring up the special economic problems of the young workers, to formulate with them economic demands, to develop social and cultural activities and organizations that serve to hold the young workers and which clearly and popularly bring forth the revolutionary aims objects of the working class movement.

Salvador Olmeda.

A MASS PICKET-LINE FOR EVERY STRIKE!

Open Letter to NRA Head, George Creel

Are you trying to suppress the workers' legal rights to organize into the Cannery & Agricultural Workers' Industrial Union?

Mr. Creel, around Feb. 28, J. M Cremin, Marysville postmaster, wrote you in regards to organizing the Yuba-Sutter area in anticipation of Communist activities during the approaching harvest season and you replied, according to the Sacramento Union-"Go ahead at full speed, and if I can help in any way do not hesitate to call on me.

Mr Cremin's plan is "to organiz the growers of the two counties for the purpose of arriving at an agreement on a living wage for seasonal workers, and for the best in the line of living conditions for the pickers of fruit and their families." And you, representative of the NRA, lieutenant of President Roosevelt, agreed to this plan? You do not demand that LABOR shall be represented in drawing up its onw living standard! But you take one step further than Mr Cremin, lackey of the rich growers: you hold a meeting in Centerville for the purpose of drawing up a code for the agricultural workers, and you said [illegible] that the conference was represented by growers, officials and WORKERS. What did you do?-Take a couple of stool pigeons and dress them in overalls to represent the workers? Or did you fool some honest workers just to be able to say you had workers represented?

Mr Marsh of the Sacramento A F of L says that the leaders of the AF of L do not want to organize the agricultural workers, because they are "undependable." But you say that the A F of L will organize the workers! Why, Mr. Creel? Because you are afraid of the growing militancy

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The Illegal Anti-Pickeling Ordinance

In an effort to intimidate the agricultural workers to prevent them from striking for higher wages this season, every important agricultural county in the state has passed anti-picketing ordinances. Counties passing such ordinances are: Sacramento, Monterey, Santa Clara, Ventura Tulare, Imperial, Orange, San Benito and Contra Costa.

J.L.R. Marsh, a leader of the Sacramento AF of L sat in at the county supervisors' meeting when the ordinance was drawn up. Several members of the Board are also AF of L leaders. Marsh said that this ordinance was not aimed at "organized labor" but at agitators! However, the ordinances, if they remain, will affect all labor, and it is clear from this that the leaders of the AF of L have no intention of organizing the workers to struggle for higher wages and decent living conditions. That's why Marsh says "the ordinance will not affect organized labor." at the same time Marsh admitted that he knew the agricultural workers were getting as low as 10 and 12 cents an hour, but that the A F of L did not want to do anything about it and especially he, Marsh, doesn't like Mexican and Filipino workers.

The ordinance in San Jose was proposed by big pear growers, among them William McCormick, Howard Anderson and Guy R. Kinsley. In San Benito County the ordinance was proposed by J.M. Leonard of the Chamber of Commerce and backed by the American Legion, State Farm Bureau and county officials. In Contra Costa County the ordinance was drafted by District Attorney James F. Hoey who openly states it is for the purpose of "curbing anticipated activity of agitators in the agricultural section during harvest seasons!" District Attorney Harry Noland of Monterey County said that the Monterey ordinance was modeled after one passed in Orange County with a slight change that will make possible the breaking of strikes of the fishermen at Monterey. This ordinance was submitted by Thos. Thwaite, head of the county Farm Buro; W. B. Murray of Salinas and Ken Lyman of Monterey, Prominent American Legion members; K. Hoven, Monterey sardine canner; Gene Harding, Salinas lettuce shipper and Charles Pioda of the large Spreckels sugar factory.

These anti-picketing, anti-labor ordinances are in violation of legal rights of workers to organize, strike and picket. The Union is planning to fight the ordinances in the courts on the grounds of being unconstitutional. If necessary the battle will be taken thru the U.S. Supreme Court. IN THE MEANTIME, EVERY STRIKE MUST AND WILL HAVE A MASS PICKET LINE!

Reports From Locals And Sections

PESCADERO

In Pescadero, Leo Marquez and myself were handed a verdict of guilty by the jury at trial. We were guilty of no crime, as it was proven in the cross examination of the Constable and his witness by our Attorney Geo. Anderson. We were pleased with the way Anderson handled the case. Not receiving any justice, we are appealing our case to the upper court. We hope for the support of our fellow workers.

Crops being about over, the workers are moving to other places to look for work and I may have to do the same. I will be back when the court needs me for my case.

Val Ordonez

MONTEREY

The V.P.A., a fake A.F. of L. Union organized separately three branches of their Union - American, Filipino, and Mexican sections. They have already started using one side against the other. The bosses told the Mexican workers in Casteroville, "well, if you don't like the wages we pay this year, we will work all Filipinos". One Filipino worker said "to hell with this noise, I'm joining the C&AWIU. There are Filipinos in that Union and they won't scab". The Filipinos in Salinas are realizing the same thing and are dropping out of the A.F. of L. to join the ranks of the workers who realize they must either have unity, or keep working for starvation wages.

Sam McKay

SAN JOSE

At our Section meeting we elected two field Organizers and a Secretary. The Cannery Section has an organizer and a meeting will be held next Sunday in order to elect the other functionaries. Send cards at once as things are going to develope fast.

The Mt. View local reports that they are arranging meetings to establish locals in the near-by towns. Sunnyvale is ready for action and will establish a local with the help of the Section Organizer.

San Jose is willing to do anything possible to establish a big local. The unemployed are ready to back strikers in any activity and will not scab.

Had discussion on peas. Delegates to Conference were elected from Mountain View, Sunnyvale, and Santa Clara. Redwood City was not present. Open letters will be given to the farmers in regards to the Union. Will try to have United Farmers' League present at the Conference. There will be a general distribution of leaflets through the section in preparation for the Conference. Small farmers will be invited.

We are going to elect a correspondence committee. You can expect regular reports from us.

Able Conde

LOS ANGELES

Fellow Workers:

The Los Angeles members of the C&AWIU have been successful in preventing the passege of an Anti-Picketing Ordinance in their Section. We formed a United Front Committee of representatives from a number of Workers organizations. This committee called on the Board of Supervizors and demanded that the rights of the workers to organize strike and picket be protected. The outcome of this action was that the ordinance was not passed.

This shows what power the workers have when they get together for common action. We recommend that other Sections follow our example and form United Front Committees against the anti - picketing ordinances and all other anti-labor laws.

Comrade Russell.

OPEN LETTER TO TULARE

We have the last report of your Section Committee Meeting and are glad to see the pick-up in the work. Especially the re-organization in Corcoran and some of the other weak points.

We notice in several reports on Locals that some members don't pay dues because of unemployment. We understand the difficulty in paying under such circumstances: however, comrades, we'd like to bring out the fact that usualy when a worker joins a real Organization he expects to pay dues. In fact, the organization's prestige raises in his mind if he does pay his dues. Workers join the Union because they see in the Union their only protection against the slavery of low wages. The policy of the AFofL is high dues and expulsion if dues can't be paid. This is not our policy because we are not interested in the percentages and high salaries but only in the effectiveness of the organization to function and give leadership to the struggles of the agricultural workers.

No Organization can function without at least a minimum income to meet the necessery expenses. Our income comes from membership. Responsibility to the Union means a payment of dues and a real Union man pays union dues, expecially when they are as low as ours. We must not only build the Union to be a powerful force against the exploiters, but the membership must also feel the strength of the Union, and one way of accomplishing this is strict payment of dues.

Dist. Sec'y.

COMRADES:

Make your reports clear and plain. Tell what happened, how happened. What action was taken. Be sure all statements are true before sending in reports. Read your bulletin, watch how other comrades write articles and by our cooperation we will be able to improve our bulletin.

BUY-BOOST-SELL & WRITE TO YOUR BULLETIN!

INTERNATIONAL GREETINGS.

(Cont'd from page 2)

The International Committee has promised to send us material on the agricultural industry in the Soviet Union. The Committee have asked the C&AWIU to let them know what problems interest the workers. The Committee has promised to send the Union a monthly "Information Bulletin" which will tell about conditions of agricultural workers in other capitalist countries.

The District Committee has acknowledged receipt of the letter from the International Committee of Agricultural & Forestry Workers, saying we were glad to maintain contact with them and would be glad to receive their bulletins. The Union received two packages of pamphlets already. (Locals requesting some of this material will receive it by writing to the District Office of the Union.)

The District Committee sent some material explaining the living conditions of the workers and their struggles, we also explained the "wealth of experiences" we have received in struggle since the literature was published. The District Committee explained the "fascist terror" being prepared against the agricultural workers and the demagogy employed by the Federal Government.

The C&AWIU with pleasure acknowledges the greetings from the Soviet Union. It is a sign of the GROWING INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY of the agricultural workers.

District Committee

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BOSSES BETRAY TAMPA STRIKERS

Tampa, Fla. -- The citrus workers employed in a large plant here went out on strike recently demanding an increase in wages.

The strike was immediately "settled" by the bosses who promised that the demands of the girl workers would be met. But their first act was to fire the most militant workers, once the strike had been called off. With demagogic promises they lured the workers back into the plant, making them believe that they had won a victory. When the girls realized that they had been tricked, they renewed the agitation for another walk-out demanding that the militant workers who were fired be re-instated. The bosses refused and called the police in order to intimidate the workers and thus prevent them from demonstrating their solidarity with those who were fired.

This, like some of the cases in California, is another example showing that the workers cannot depend on the promises of the bosses when settling strikes. Lack of solid organization and able leadership was the cause for this temporary defeat. But the citrus workers now know how false are the promises of the bosses.

Word has just been received that two new locals have been formed at Salem, Oregon. Near-by towns report forming of other locals.

OPEN LETTER TO CREEL

(Cont'd from page 4)

of the agricultural workers who refuse to starve thru your representation? Because you are afraid of the growing strength of the CANNERY & AGRICULTURAL WORKERS INDUSTRIAL UNION? You are representing the NRA which says the purchasing power of the masses must be increased! It was the Cannery & Agricultural Workers Industrial Union that increased the purchasing power of the masses last season by winning millions of dollars in wage increases!

You say that you will see that "safe and sane" yet effective methods will be used in dealing with "Communists". Are you not calling workers who are courageous enough to fight for what they need and for their rights "Communists" just to work up sentiment against militant workers? What do you mean by effective methods? Do you mean JAILING THE LEADERS? Do you mean ISSUEING ILLEGAL INJUNCTIONS AGAINST LEGAL PICKET LINES? Did you help Mr. Edson Abel draw up all the anti-labor, anti-picketing laws? Do you mean effective methods like the Pixley growers used -- shooting down workers?

Mr. Creel, the agricultural workers will not accept your kind of "representation"! The agricultural workers DEMAND REPRESENTATION OF THEIR OWN CHOICE THRU THEIR UNION, THE CANNERY & AGRICULTURAL WORKERS INDUSTRIAL UNION!

DISARM BIG GROWERS!

(Cont'd from page 1)

The workers of other nationalities are NOT OUR ENEMIES. Those who starve, beat and jail us are our enemies!

AGRICULTURAL WORKERS! DEMAND THE DISARMING OF RICH GROWERS, CANNERS and VIGILANTE COMMITTEES OR THE RIGHT OF THE WORKERS OF ALL NATIONALITIES TO ARM THEMSELVES IN SELF-DEFENSE!

500 FILIPINOS STRIKE

TACOMA, WASHINGTON, March 21st: 500 Filipinos have walked out in a general strike in the agricultural fields around Puyallup and Kent. Latest word is that the strike is spreading drawing in Japanese and other workers.

An appeal for help was wired to the District Office of the C&AWIU. Books, information on the Union, literature on Strike Strategy, etc. were immediately rushed. A large number have joined the C&AWIU thus laying a good basis for forming a strong section of the Union.

FORWARD TO A MASS MILITANT NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIAL UNION!

(mittigraphed)